

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5684

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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YAOUNDE FOR RDO KOEHRING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, CT

SUBJECT: CAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

REF: STATE 083959 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY TRANSMITTING COPY OF 1971-1975 FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR) REQUESTED REFTEL. THIS IS COUNTRY'S SECOND ECON DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND FIRST FIVE-YEAR PLAN. WE ARE TOLD THAT THERE ARE NOT MORE THAN A HALF DOZEN COPIES NOW IN EXISTENCE AND OUR OWN IS REPRODUCED FROM A BOOTLEG COPY. DUE TO LIMITED REPRODUCTIO FACILITIES COPY OF THIS 576-PAGE DOCUMENT PROBABLY CANNOT BE SENT BEFORE APRIL 28 AT EARLIEST.

2. ROLE OF OFFICIAL FIVE YEAR PLAN IN CAR'S ACTUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LIMITED BY LACK OF EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL, ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE PLANNING MECHANISM, PERSISTENT BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES, AND DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION INTO DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO PLAN'S PRIORITIES.

3. ADDITIONALLY, CAR'S CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1971-1975) WAS POORLY PREPARED. PROJECTIONS ARE OFTEN BASED ON INCORRECT FIGURES SUCH AS COTTON CROP YIELDS, ETC., WITH RESULT THAT

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PLAN OVERLY OPTIMISTIC IN TERMS OF CAR'S RESOURCES AND

CAPABILITIES. UNDP PLANNING EXPERT BARIOU ADVISED GOCAR JUST AFTER HIS ARRIVAL TWO YEARS AGO NOT TO PUBLISH PLAN AND MAKE ANY USE OF IT LOW-KEY. GOCAR FOLLOWING BARIOU'S ADVICE HAS REPORTEDLY RESTRICTED COPIES IN EXISTENCE AND HAS NOT RELIED ON IT TO ANY GREAT EXTENT.

4. CONCERNING PREPARATION NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN, UNDP HAS PLANNING UNIT ATTACHED TO MINISTRY OF PLAN, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND STATISTICS WHICH CURRENTLY REVIEWING 1971-1975 DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PLAYING MAJOR ROLE IN DRAFTING OF NEW ONE. TIMETABLE CALLS FOR FINAL INTERMINISTERIAL MEETINGS ON PLAN IN MAY AND JUNE AND COMPLETION OF NEW PLAN IN PERIOD JULY-OCTOBER 1975. THIS WILL INCLUDE PREPARATION OF A PROGRAM OF ACTIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FOURTH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF). HOWEVER, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE SOME DELAY IN COMPLETION OF PLAN IN LIGHT OF TRANSFER THIS MONTH OF UNDP PLANNER BARIOU AND MORE IMPORTANTLY RECENT ACTION BY PRESIDENT BOKASSA TO EXPEL UNDP CENSUS TECHNICIANS (BANGUI 0408) NOTAL WHICH HAS RESULTED IN HALTING CENSUS ON POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS, BOTH VITAL TO FORMATION OF NEW PLAN. IN APRIL 5 MEETING OF TRIPARTITE (UNDP/CAR/FAC) REVUE OF PLANNING PROJECT, UNDP RESREP GAMIL HAMDY SAID THAT DUE TO DELAY IN CENSUS NEW PLAN LIKELY EXPERIENCE QUOTE SERIOUS DELAY UNQUOTE AND THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE LAUNCH IT BEFORE 1977 RATHER THAN IN EARLY 1976 AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. DALE

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